



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

No. 118

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 13, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL M. DONOVAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS MEETS WITH SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

We asked him about veterans who are being deported. We asked him why American citizens were increasingly having their families broken up by deportation. We asked him about the

800,000 young people who signed up for DACA and the hundreds of thousands of long-term residents of the U.S. who have temporary protected status. He really had no answers.

We know he is on board with Trump's agenda to deport millions and millions of people or he would not have been appointed to his position. But, honestly, he seemed not to understand what his own agency does, the statutory powers he has as Secretary of Homeland Security under current law, or, for that matter, even how Congress works—so naive.

Let me give Members some examples. Number one, Francisca Lino lives in Chicago, and her husband and six children are U.S. citizens. For nearly a decade, she stayed out of trouble and reported every year to immigration authorities.

Now people who work for the Secretary decided she must leave the country and leave her American citizen children and her American citizen husband this August. Why? What changed, Mr. Secretary? Absolutely nothing, except you.

The same goes for Jesus Lara in Ohio. He has four American citizen children who have lived their entire lives here but their family is being broken up by their own government.

According to the Secretary, the courts are deporting them, not he or his agency. He denied any responsibility and said he can't do anything about it. But we all know the Secretary of Homeland Security has extraordinary powers to spare families from deportation, especially when doing so would not be in our national interest.

I told him he could just pick up the phone and stop the deportation of Ms. Lino and Mr. Lara and spare the American people the cruelty and the hardship. But he is hiding behind the old "it is out of my hands" bureaucratic dodge and the old "I am just following

orders" defense—the general following orders.

But, General, that is completely invalid because we know you have the power to do the right thing.

On TPS, a program that currently allows hundreds of thousands of people to live and work here legally, the Secretary has almost unilateral power to extend it. But the Secretary was like: Well, I don't know what I'm gonna do. They have been here a long time. I don't know what I'm gonna do. I have to decide.

What kind of answer is that, Mr. Secretary?

To me this means that hundreds of thousands of people's lives, the lives that have been built in the United States, are about to be turned upside down. He wants to take hundreds of thousands of legally documented immigrants and make them undocumented and then go after them and their families. How does that make America great?

Then there is DACA, the program where 800,000 children and young adults came forward and registered with the government, went through a background check and were rechecked periodically. Now Secretary Kelly says he thinks DACA is illegal, and, once again, it is out of his hands—and up to whom? Do you know whom he says it is up to? Attorney General Jeff Sessions—only America's number one opponent of immigration of any kind.

So to me this is our call to action. The way we rose up to support women and Planned Parenthood, we have to do that again and again. The way lawyers and patriotic Americans stood at airports to protect refugees and religious freedom, well, now it is time to protect TPS, DREAMers, and other families in the crosshairs.

We are going to have to organize, mobilize, and stand with our allies to protect families, to protect American citizens in those families, and to defend

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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communities because these guys are serious. They want to deport millions of people, and they are coming after the DREAMers and those with deep, long-term lives in the U.S.

This is our call to action. We must resist. We must rise up and stand up for American values. Whether the President, the Secretary, or the Attorney General likes it or not, we need to make it clear that immigrants and immigration are here to stay.

Last May, the Secretary of Homeland Security set an edict. He told over 55,000 Haitians: You have got 6 months. Get your paperwork ready. You are leaving the country.

Then he is going to come after hundreds of thousands of Central Americans that are here legally in this country and have been here for 10, 15, and 20 years. He is telling them also: Get your affairs in order. You are going to be deported from the United States. I am eliminating your legal status.

When it comes to DREAMers, I want to make it absolutely clear to everyone today that he is going to end the program, and he is going to begin that process this September. He says: Oh, I like them. They are nice people, but there is nothing I can do. I am just going to talk to my buddy, General Jeff Sessions.

Jeff Sessions has never liked the program when he was a U.S. Senator, and now he is the Attorney General. They will eliminate the program, putting 800,000 people in the crosshairs of deportation.

We have the moment to rise up.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

It is the moment to resist, they are coming to destroy our communities, they are coming to deport dreamers. Let's stand up! Get organized and resist.

Es el momento de resistir, vienen a destruir nuestra comunidad, vienen a deportar a los soñadores. Parecen, organizasen y resistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

THANKING SUSAN GUREKOVICH FOR HER SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful career of Susan Gurekovich, the office manager and academy coordinator caseworker in my Bellefonte district office. After nearly 40 years of service to the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which spanned the terms of three separate Members of the House, Susan will retire on Friday, July 14.

She will certainly be missed by all.

Mr. Speaker, Susan began her career on February 19, 1979. She began work-

ing for Congressman Bill Clinger of Warren County, Pennsylvania. She would spend the following 18 years providing top-notch constituent services to the people of Pennsylvania.

Susan said she was blessed to work for Congressman Clinger and to learn from his experienced staff, especially her mentor, Becky Mills. Susan has seen a lot through her 38 years of service, and her smile, friendliness, and can-do attitude has only grown larger over the years.

Susan, herself, has mentored countless interns and employees during her tenure. It was decades ago that a young intern named Rick Santorum spent time in the office during his tenure at Penn State University. Later Susan would watch his career progress as he eventually found himself in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

When Congressman Clinger retired and Congressman John Peterson was sworn in, he welcomed Susan's experience as he took office in 1997. Susan continued her role, which included overseeing the Military Service Academy Board. Susan also worked to help nominate the best and the brightest young men and women in the congressional district for our U.S. service academies.

She has seen scores of young, optimistic, patriotic students walk through her door with the hope of attending one of our great academies. These same students have been fortunate to work with a true civil servant like Susan. She is someone who is not only dedicated to her job, but enthusiastic about it day in and day out.

When Congressman Peterson retired in 2008 and I was elected in 2009, it was an easy fit to retain Susan on my district staff as a caseworker and office manager. Her dedication to the people of the Fifth Congressional District knows no bounds. She is always in search of an answer and works diligently to navigate our Federal agencies to resolve issues and problems for our constituents.

To say we will miss Susan is an understatement. Her warm welcome to all who cross her path will not be forgotten or easily replaced. Everyone who has the pleasure of interacting with her can see her passion.

Susan is a hometown girl and a self-described country girl at heart. She graduated from South Hills School of Business Technology and supplemented her degree with courses at Penn State University.

I know she looks forward to spending more time with her husband, John, and they plan to travel and visit with family and friends. Susan said she will take a more active role in her church as a deacon to continue her life of service.

And that is exactly what Susan has done for the past 38 years for the people of central and north central Pennsylvania: serve. She has helped and assisted so many. When you meet with

Susan, you will always be greeted with a welcoming smile, a listening ear, and a caring heart.

I thank Susan for her dedication, for serving the American people, and for helping select so many bright young minds to serve in our military academies.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I thank Susan for more than four decades of service to the people's House. She embodies the character of this institution and has been a steadfast advocate for countless constituents, three Members of the House, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

On behalf of my family and her second family, the staff in Pennsylvania and here in Washington, we wish Susan the best for a well-deserved retirement.

PASS GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I stood up on this floor and called for action to stop gun violence. My request was simple: before we recess this summer, let us pass lifesaving gun safety legislation. This is something that has bipartisan support. It is something that urban, suburban, and rural communities have cried out for help on.

Universal background checks are something 74 percent of NRA members support. Put in context, just 16 percent of Americans want the majority's healthcare bill, and yet you have attempted to pass it three times in the past 2 months. Nearly 8 in 10 Americans want background checks on gun sales, but we have not had one vote.

Because of your inaction, over 100 people were shot and over 10 were killed by gun violence in Chicago over the Fourth of July weekend. Over 100 Americans shot in one weekend and in one city, and still we do nothing.

I would like to call out names of those who have lost their lives:

Martell Sanders-Anderson, 16;
Djuan Williams, 16;
Andre Taylor, 16;
Lucas L. Spicer, Jr., 16;
Pierre Loury, 16;
Davharea Wilson, 16;
Ladarrius Jackson, 15;
Leonardo Betancourt, 13;
Randall Young, 16;
Eddy Brooks, 16;
Nathan Hicks, 16;
Damarcus Williams, 16;
Veronica Lopez, 15;
Fabian Lavinder, 15;
Victor Felix, 16;
Christian Bandemer, 16;
Melvin Cook, 16;
Trevell Parker, 16;
Travon Smith, 15;
Mario Venegas, Jr., 15;
Delance Price, 16;
Malik Causey, 14;
Elijah Sims, 16;
Jaylen Howard, 16;